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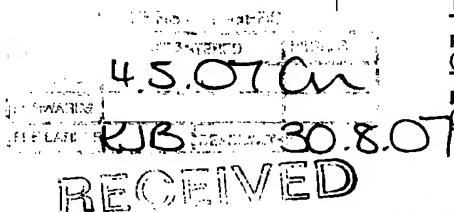
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Application No. 05 724 418.8 - 1525	Ref. P307480EP-PCT	Date 30.04.2007
Applicant Electronics for Imaging, Inc.		

Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC

The examination of the above-identified application has revealed that it does not meet the requirements of the European Patent Convention for the reasons enclosed herewith. If the deficiencies indicated are not rectified the application may be refused pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

You are invited to file your observations and insofar as the deficiencies are such as to be rectifiable, to correct the indicated deficiencies within a period

of 4 months

from the notification of this communication, this period being computed in accordance with Rules 78(2) and 83(2) and (4) EPC.

One set of amendments to the description, claims and drawings is to be filed within the said period on separate sheets (Rule 36(1) EPC).

Failure to comply with this invitation in due time will result in the application being deemed to be withdrawn (Article 96(3) EPC).



Figiel, Barbara
Primary Examiner
for the Examining Division

Enclosure(s): 3 page/s reasons (Form 2906)



The examination is being carried out on the **following application documents**:

Description, Pages

1-25 as published

Claims, Numbers

1-20 filed with entry into the regional phase before the EPO

Drawings, Sheets

1/12-12/12 as published

1. The following documents (D) are referred to in this communication; the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

D1: GUTTMAN E ET AL: "Service Location Protocol, Version 2" NETWORK WORKING GROUP, June 1999 (1999-06), XP002191158
D2: ZHU F ET AL: "Classification of Service Discovery in Pervasive Computing Environments" MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, 2002, XP002328060
D3: EP-A-0 817 444 (SUN MICROSYSTEMS, INC) 7 January 1998 (1998-01-07)

2. The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 52(1) EPC, because the subject-matter of **independent claim 1** is **not new** in the sense of Article 54(1) and (2) EPC.

- 2.1 Referring to the wording of **claim 1** document D1 (the references in parentheses applying to this document) discloses a system comprising:

- a first network device coupled to a first network (service agent, paragraph 3), the first network coupled to a second network ("network with several subnets" page 38, paragraph 12), the first network device comprising information identifying the first network device on the first network (Service



- URL; page 9, paragraph 4.1);
- a directory server coupled to the second network, the directory server adapted to register the identification information (directory agent DA, paragraph 12, page 38).

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore not new.

2.2 Due to the broad formulation the subject-matter of claim 1 is also disclosed in documents D2 (D2: paragraphs "Service Designs", "Directory Designs", appendix "Jini", "SSDS") and D3 (D3: figures 3-6, column 6, lines 24-40).

3. **Dependent claims 2-20** do not contain any additional features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the Article 52(1) EPC in respect of novelty (Article 54(1) and (2) EPC) and/or inventive step (Article 56 EPC) for the reason that the subject-matter of said claims is either in principle directly derivable from the disclosure of the document D1 or represents simple design details which are generally known to the person skilled in the field.

Particularly, document D1 discloses also plurality of the network devices (service agents Sas, e.g. paragraph 12, page 38) whereby the directory server (directory agent DA, paragraph 12, page 38) is adapted to register the identification information (service location and attribute information; paragraph 12, page 38). The subject matter of **claim 6** is therefore not new.

4. The application does not meet the requirements of **Article 84 EPC for the following reasons:**

4.1 Claim 11 is not clear:

The used term "*device comprises a network connection...*" is vague and unclear and leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical feature to which it refers, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claim unclear.

4.2 Claim 11 should be dependent on claim 6.

4.3 Figures (e.g. reference signs 16, 18, 20, 22, 24) are not consistent and not compatible with the description.



5. At least some of the objections raised above are such that there appears to be no possibility of overcoming them by amendment. **Refusal of the application under Article 97(1) EPC is therefore to be expected.**

Should the applicant nevertheless regard some particular matter as patentable, the independent claims should be filed taking account of Rule 29(1) EPC.

The applicant should also **indicate in the letter of reply the difference** of the subject-matter of the new claim vis-à-vis the state of the art and the strong supporting arguments detailing **its inventive contribution** to the art.

- 5.1 Independent claims should have the **two-part form** in accordance with Rule 29(1).
- 5.2 The features of the amended claims should be provided with **reference signs** placed in parentheses to increase the intelligibility of the claims (Rule 29(7) EPC). This applies to both the preamble and characterising portion (see the Guidelines, C-III, 4.11).
- 5.3 When filing amended claims the applicant should at the same time bring the description into conformity with the amended claims. Care should be taken during revision, especially of the introductory portion and any statements of problem or advantage, not to add subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as originally filed (Article 123(2) EPC).
- 5.4 To meet the requirements of Rule 27(1)(b) EPC, the document D1 should be identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein should be briefly discussed.